

trade extended to a rather small area. They served regular meals and home-made ice cream and cake. When they needed music, it was furnished by a brass band led by Mr. Robert Krebs, who lived nearby."

Following Tom Monk's operation the resort was taken over by W. W. Ritter and Peter Kurellor, known as Dutch Pete, who ran it for three or four years before the Schneitter family took over again.

David N. Murdock owned a resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon about 1894 or '95, called "The Warm Lands." From his journal we read:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. A 'bus' ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend, held on the 4th of July."

The balloon was filled by spreading the silk over a fire in an effort to catch the smoke and gases. On the particular day this mentions the silk of the balloon caught fire and of course failed in its attempt to become airborne.

The journal continues: "The place had nice lawns and trees, but a big bowery was built to accommodate the crowds that came to picnic."

There were more bath houses in the area, such as Fred Buhler's which was more centrally located and used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members and also for those whose records were lost or destroyed. Sometimes this work was carried throughout the entire day. The water in this bath was very hot and was remembered by those using it for a long time. Fred Buhler, Jr., son of the original owner constructed the present bathhouse and built it further down the hill toward the road. The building that stands is larger and the water that feeds this pool had been cooled until now it is quite comfortable. The water was piped from the old bathhouse down to the new.

Still standing is the old Joseph Galli home and one-half mile to the west the tiny bathhouse where Mr. Galli and his wife would teach children of the community to swim. The patient couple were responsible for instructing many Midway youngsters in the sport, and the warm waters of their spring-fed pool became a delightful playground for local boys and girls.

In 1947 Luke's Hot Pots was sold to Joe B. Erwin for \$100,000. Erwin was one of the first to envision Heber Valley as a national resort area, drawing thousands of visitors and greatly benefiting the economy of Wasatch County. He added a new outside swimming pool to the

resort, but eventually his far-sighted plans went awry and five years after he purchased it, Luke's Hot Pots were once again in the hands of John Luke.

In 1953 Luke deeded his resort to Jay, Clyde and Charles DeGraff who made some improvements on the property. Until 1955, when it was deeded back to Mr. Luke, the resort was known as the Diamond D. Also in 1955 Luke transferred the property to his wife Alada, who sold it the following year to Harold Calder and Clifford W. Stubbs. Late in 1956 Calder transferred his interest to Stubbs. A year later Mr. Stubbs sold the resort to Dr. Willard Draper and Eugene Payne who promptly christened it the Mountain Spa.

Under the ownership of Draper and Payne great changes were made. The entire main building was renovated, a brick facade added and the roof completely tiled. Landscaping of the property was begun in earnest, the dining room was remodeled and new equipment added. Roller-skating on the huge dance floor became a popular pastime. A small but picturesque hotel was opened and renovated. Horses were brought in to create added interest at the resort.

In spite of the untimely death of Dr. Draper in 1958 the Mountain Spa continued to gain interest. Still owned and operated by Payne,



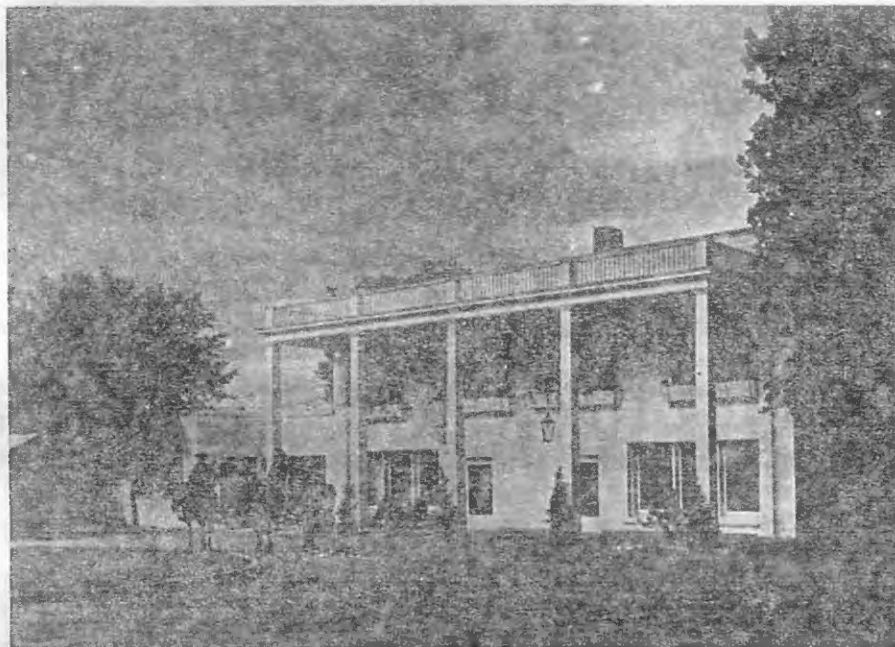
An aerial view of the Midway area with the Mt. Spa resort in the foreground. This is another of the county's popular resort spots.

it has become a popular spot for banquets, swimming and skating parties and future plans call for further expansion.

Schneitters Hot Pots became The Homestead early in 1952 when Ferrin W. Whitaker, his brothers Berlin and Scott and a son-in-law, Del Wallengren, moved to Midway from southern California to take ownership from the Schneitter family. A complete architectural face-lifting gave a new look to the main building. The east wall of the dining room was opened with windows looking out over the valley and kitchen facilities expanded when a new pantry was added. The lobby and fountain were redecorated and a wing furnished to house rest rooms and a check-in room for swimmers.

The old hotel was renovated as was a three-room milk house to the south, providing additional space for overnight guests. Since then the Ranch House and Farm House have been constructed bringing the total number of hotel rooms to 20.

Swimming, horseback riding, fishing in a stocked pond, shuffleboard and other lawn games were made available to visitors. Through continual enlarging, planting and landscaping, this new resort becomes a drawing card for the county. Chicken and steak dinners are still being served and the luster of this vacation spot remains undimmed through 80 years of resort business in Wasatch County. It is one of Utah's best resorts.



The nationally popular Homestead Resort at Midway

IRRIGATION

Management of irrigation water was an individual matter in the early days of Midway, but by 1887 the community had developed to the point that centralized control was necessary.

On May 4, 1887 the first organizational meeting of the Midway Irrigation Company was held with 74 persons present. Alvah J. Alexander was appointed chairman and Attewall Wootton, secretary of the meeting.

At this meeting a motion was carried that a committee of five be elected, who in connection with Attorney William Buys, would draft articles of incorporation, and by-laws to be presented at a meeting called by said committee. Committee members included S. H. Epperson, James B. Wilson, James B. Hamilton, C. I. Bronson and Attewall Wootton.

A second mass meeting was held May 16, 1887 to present the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as prepared. A committee of five was elected to obtain stock subscriptions and select a time for election of officers. As the articles were read it became necessary to explain them in German to many of those attending, so it was determined to make a complete translation into the German language.

The first meeting of the corporation was held March 16, 1888, and S. H. Epperson was elected president. Directors elected included Mr. Epperson, William J. Andrews, John U. Buhler, Elijah Alder, Charles I. Bronson and B. Mark Smith. Treasurer was William Bonner.

On March 27, 1888 the articles of incorporation and by-laws were read in English and German and then unanimously adopted. Attewall Wootton was appointed secretary at a meeting on March 30, 1888, to serve for a salary of \$100 per year.

While Wilford Van Wagoner was president of the Midway Irrigation Company a law-suit was carried on between the adjacent mining companies and the irrigation company. The case involved the rights of ownership to water originating in mining territory. The suit was finally carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Irrigation Company won the suit. A decision was handed down that mining companies could not go into irrigation watersheds and claim the water. They could divert but not develop water. The decision protected agricultural water rights.

Salt Lake City and other government units supported the Irrigation Company in the suit with moral and financial help.

The case attracted national attention. The verdict was hailed as a vital water policy. Mr. Van Wagoner deserves much credit for his valiant, intelligent conduct during the case. The litigation lasted from 1914 when the first complaint was filed until 1925 when it was finally settled.

The annual meetings of the corporation have been held since that time in January. Officers are elected and the annual report is read at this time.

Current officers of the company include Alma Huber, president; William Farrell, Rex Kohler, George Remund, Jay Haueter, J. Fred Price and Vernon Wilson, directors and Grace W. Sonderegger, secretary.

MEDICINE

Midway has produced four medical doctors, namely, Dr. John Gerber, an early pioneer; Dr. John Edwin Morton, Dr. Reed Abplanalp Alder and Dr. Brice Wilson. Lois Bonner and Emily Zenger are registered nurses, while Carmen Kohler is a laboratory technician. Those engaged in practical nursing include Mary Gerber, Margaret Brach, Margaret Watkins, Cordelia Wilson, Margaret Clayburn Kelly, Winona Epperson, Burnice Bonner and Leah Houtz.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Knowledge Is Power

In July of 1838, leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints declared that "Next to worship of God, we esteem the education of our children and of the rising generation." However, such emphasis on education was not new to members of the Church, for the gaining of life knowledge and wisdom has always been declared a vital part of life in the revelations of the Lord. They had been taught such doctrines as "The Glory of God is Intelligence,"—"Search not for riches, but for wisdom."

It was only logical, then, that the first settlers of Midway would be influenced by the educational ideals of the Church as they lived and worked together to build a new community.

Though they knew how to survive under the rigors of pioneer living, these settlers knew also that the refining influences of life came best through organized schools and in their Church worship. So they built early in their settling days a combination school house and Church building for community use.

The first school in Midway was made of logs, and offered no better facilities than log slabs for seats. Yet, the pupils appreciated what they had and worked diligently on their stone slates to master writing, arithmetic and other school subjects.

Simon Higgenbotham was the first teacher in the school, which was built just west of the present Second Ward chapel site. A stream nearby provided water for the school, and entertainment for the youngsters during recess time. Mr. Higgenbotham's main text was the old Wilson Reader.

When Midway was formed from the upper and lower settlements in 1866, the old log schools were becoming a thing of the past. The people desired more permanent facilities, and so by 1867 a school meeting was called to organize a board of trustees and form a new school. David Van Wagonen, James Lowe and John Huber were elected for a term of two years and instructed to lay plans for building a new school.

The south-east corner lot of the public square was selected as the site of the school, and a tax was voted for the new building, and also for the support of the school. Each family was to furnish one-half cord of rock at the building site. The school ledger for 1867 to 1869 indicates that money was difficult to raise. However, many people paid their taxes with lumber, potatoes, wheat, wood, shingles, by mending windows,

hauling rock or coal, working with a team, assisting the mason or by paying a few dollars toward the teacher's salary.

Even though taxes were to pay the costs of the school, many found difficulty in paying them in cash. So more often than not, the pupils attended by paying tuition. The teachers received their salaries by living with families of the students and by accepting produce, potatoes, wheat, flour, or most any other product that they could use.

The new school was completed in time for the 1868-69 school term, and Attewall Wootton, Sr. was hired as the new principal. He was a well-trained educator, and possessed a keen mind. At the age of six he had read "The Book of Mormon." Because of his aptitude, he was given every opportunity for learning that pioneer life could afford. He quickly mastered all that his teachers knew, and soon became a teacher himself. His first assignment was in the schools of American Fork.

After his marriage to Cynthia J. Jewett, one of his classmates, Mr. Wootton drove a herd of cattle into Wasatch County for his stepfather, and decided to settle in Midway. He became principal of the new school and served until 1887 when he became Superintendent of Schools in Wasatch County, a position which he held for many years. Three generations of Wasatch County residents were trained under his direction.

As was the case in all pioneer communities, the Church and the school shared the same facilities. While this was the most practical use of the building in Midway, it was the source of considerable trouble beginning about 1869.

This was the year that the transcontinental railroad was completed through Utah, and with the new "iron horses" came many non-members of the Church. A great number of these people of other religious beliefs settled in or near Midway because of the mining boom that resulted in Park City and other places in Wasatch County.

Serious difficulties arose when many non-members of the Church refused to have their children attend schools in buildings that were used by the Mormons for their religious worship. As a result, many denominational schools were established. These church schools were also a subtle missionary effort on the part of the various religious groups, since they boasted free tuition, something the poor Mormon pioneers found hard to compete with.

In 1885, the New West Education Commission, a society of the Congregational Church, opened a school in Midway. Many pupils attended because there was no tuition charge. The teachers were well trained, with most of them coming from the east. Some of the first teachers at the New West school were Anna Viola La Rose from Illinois, Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College of Massachusetts and Etta Hunt. Other teachers through the years included Miss Anna Slosson, Mrs. J. C. Caldwell, Rena Clark, Frances Buck, Geneva Green, Lizzie Abbott Bond,

Jessie Hunt, Emma Abbott and Sarah E. Jones. These teachers usually boarded with Midway residents.

The New West school was first held in the Van Wagoner Amusement Hall, a large frame building just south of the John Van Wagoner, Sr., home. It had been built by David Van Wagoner as a recreation hall.

In spite of its free tuition, the New West School began to drop in attendance after a few years, and by 1889 it was closed down.



Midway's New West School conducted in Van Wagoner Hall in 1886

A few private schools also existed in Midway during the 1880's. Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander conducted a summer school for about eight or ten pupils who were too young to work on the farms. Mrs. Mary Bronson also had a school in her home. Another private tutor was Sarah Woods, a sister of Mrs. Bronson.

Other private schools were organized to teach specific subjects, and generally were open to anyone interested. Leo Haefeli conducted a writing school in the old German Hall, a building just north of the public square. This was conducted in the evening, and pupils brought their own writing materials and copy books. John Huber taught a music singing class and writing also in the evening.

Attewall Wootton, in addition to his day-school activities, also organized a night school for young married people and other adults to study civics, debating, music, dramatics and to engage in wholesome recreation and open forums.

Other community residents furthered their education by attending evening lectures given by prominent individuals. One such lecturer was a Professor Clegg, an English phrenologist who settled in Heber.

Many of the talented young people in Midway took advantage of state colleges or Church schools in other areas to further their training. Some of the first to leave home to attend college were John, Mary and Emma Huber, the eldest children of John Huber, who was secretary of the school board. They went to Provo where they attended the Brigham Young Academy. Jacob Probst also attended there. Jerry Springer, Reese Clayburn and Nymphus Watkins were some of the first to attend school at the Utah Agricultural College in Logan, where they were naval cadets.

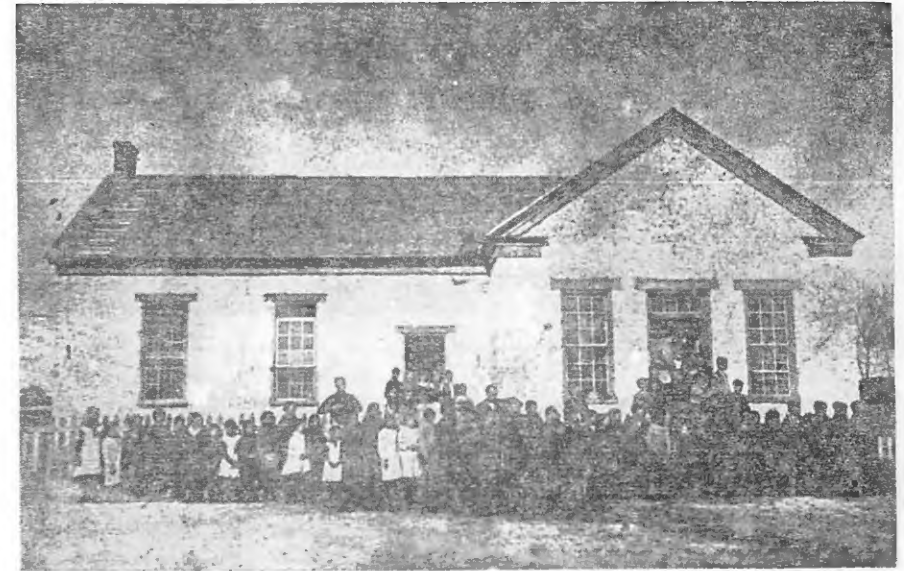


Jerry Springer, Naval cadet at Utah Agricultural College in Logan about 1900.

By 1889 the Wasatch Stake Academy had been established by the Church in the new Stake House in Heber, and many Midway students attended the academy for secondary and religious education.

In 1890, the superintendent of schools issued a report on territorial and local school taxes, which showed that Midway was assessed territorial taxes of \$1,116.36, county taxes of \$352.80 and local taxes of \$708.56, or a total of \$2,177.72 in taxes. This tax was based on \$4.43 territorial taxes per pupil and \$1.40 county tax for each pupil. This would indicate that there were 252 pupils attending the Midway schools in 1890.

This large enrollment at the school made the school building very inadequate, and so it was decided that enlargement was necessary. The remodeling included addition of a second story to the school and a large room for higher departments. This made three rooms available in the school, which by now had three teachers. Attewall Wootton, Sr., continued as principal, even though he was also superintendent of schools. With the remodeling came also new school equipment, including the latest models of globes, microscopes, physiological charts, geometric forms,



Students of the Midway School in the early 1880's are photographed outside their school building. Teachers at the time were Attewall Wootton Sr. and Attewall Wootton Jr.

geography charts and maps. "Commodious and neat" desks were also furnished.

Leo Haefeli, a former teacher, and newspaper correspondent, wrote at the time, "I defy any school district of the same size or even a good many considerably larger to show better educational facilities than are at present furnished to the people of this ward. That these facilities, gratuitous tuition, and sufficient teachers, staff-graded classes, excellent apparatus, convenient rooms have been appreciated by the people of Midway is evident by the fact that out of a legal population of about 270, the opening days of the mid-winter term found an enrollment of about 240, despite the inclement weather. True at the time of the high water tide in the spell of epidemic, the attendance fell off considerably, temporarily more than 60 per cent in the primary department, but the worst is over and the school grounds are reassuming their wanted air of vivacity about the hour when the bell's brazen tongue summons the little and big scholars to their desks and tasks."

In another newspaper column, Mr. Haefeli indicates that school children are perhaps the same from generation to generation. He wrote: "The other day one boy hurt another quite seriously by holding a freshly sharpened lead pencil under him, just as the school mate was about to resume his seat at the desk. Such tomfoolery cannot be reprimanded too severely nor suppressed too promptly."

School teachers of the 1890's were expected to improve themselves

in training, as is evident from the agenda of one meeting of the Wasatch County Education Assn.

With Supt. Wootton in charge, the agenda was as follows:

- (1) A report of a committee appointed to select a list of books to be approved by the members as fit literature to be added to the library;
- (2) A special lecture by Leo Haefeli on the Absurdity of Trying to Make the English Language Fit the Latin Grammar;
- (3) Exercise by E. D. Clyde in using the teachers as a class to illustrate his method of teaching multiplication of common fractions.
- (4) General discussions by members on declension of the English noun;
- (5) Subject of percentages.

Trustees of the schools were also expected to attend these meetings along with the teachers.

When Utah became a state in 1896 it was necessary by law to elect a new school board and C. I. Bronson, John Huber and John Van Wagoner were voted to three, two and one-year terms respectively. Their salary was \$20 per year.

At the first meeting of the new board, they engaged Attewall Wootton as teacher of the grammar grades and principal for \$75 per month. William T. Wootton, intermediate department, \$50 per month; J. E. Morton, second primary, \$50; and Simon Epperson, Primary Department, \$50. In addition to the three rooms in the school house, the Swiss-German Hall was rented for \$5 per month. Custodian at the main building was Louis Coleman, who was paid \$12.50 per month. Andrew Burgener was paid \$5 per month to care for the Swiss-German Hall.

By 1898 the "growing pains" had seriously affected the Midway educational program. Teachers were handling 50 or more pupils each day in crowded, inadequate classrooms.

The school board subsequently called a meeting to discuss the crowded conditions, but the proposals failed to obtain a majority vote, and so they continued on as they had the past year.

By 1900 the school board obtained a vote to proceed with an entirely new school building. They purchased the property north of the present school for \$168.75 from the Midway Town Corporation in February of 1901.

Architect John Boss was asked to draw plans and make estimates for a new building with four rooms. In a meeting of the taxpayers in March, the clerk reported that the school district had \$512 in material and about \$900 in cash to begin the new building. The taxpayers voted a tax of one-half of one per cent to bring in about \$800 more so that at least two rooms could be ready for occupancy by the winter term. Plans for a six-room school were also discussed, but after some discussion were abandoned.

Work then began in earnest, with the board offering \$1.50 per day

to laborers, and \$2.50 per day for laborers with teams of horses. Fred Haueter obtained the masonry bid and John Van Wagoner was requested to obtain the materials and supervise the work. Andrew Johnson was hired for the carpentry work and given authority to hire what help he needed.

More money was needed, however, to finish the building and furnish it, so the taxpayers voted to bond the district for \$2,000 for five years.

On November 25, 1901, without dismissing school, the classes moved into the new building. The grammar grades moved into the south room, upstairs, with T. B. Miller as principal and teacher. The third primary occupied the north room upstairs with Miss Stella Rasmussen as teacher. Miss Rose Shore taught second primary in the north room downstairs and the first primary occupied the south room downstairs with Miss Mary E. Abegglen as teacher. The intermediate grades continued to meet in the old school building with Charles E. Bronson as teacher.



The first graduating class of the Midway School to have formal graduation exercises. Shown in this 1905 group are, seated, left to right, Alfred Sharp, Nellie Provost, Theo B. Miller, teacher, Ora Galli and Charles Bonner. Standing are Iva Bunnell, Eliza Bronson, Nancy Van Wagoner and Ellen Wilson.

The new building cost some \$5,500 to build. Some of the surplus rock and other materials were sold to provide money for furnishings, a fence and badly needed books.

In 1904 the first students were graduated from the new school's eighth grade program. The four graduates were Myrtle Abplanalp, Belle Wilson, David Clayburn and David J. Wilson.

By 1906 the school's principal, Theodore B. Miller was urging that



The Midway School, constructed of native rock in 1912 and still in use today.

Wasatch County form a high school of its own. He showed the people that they were paying enough in sending their children away to complete their education to support one of the finest high schools in the state.

His dream came true in 1908 when the various school boards in the county approved consolidation and formation of a high school district. The people voted overwhelmingly in favor of local high school instruction and a new board was elected to lay plans for the school. C. I. Bronson and George A. Huntington of Midway were elected to serve on the first board, which was headed by Supt. Orson Ryan.

Since that time, students from Midway have continued their education at Wasatch High School which is located in Heber City.

"Growing pains" were felt in Midway schools again by 1910, and so it was decided to issue bonds totaling \$7,000 for building, furnishing and equipping an addition to the school building.

In constructing the addition, the board allowed \$4.50 per cord of rock, \$1.25 per load of sand, \$2.00 per day for common labor, \$2.50 for powder and drilling, and \$3.50 per day for team work. H. G. Blumenthal was awarded the heating plant bid for \$3,375, while George A. Wootton and Anton Olson received the bids on the carpentry work, materials, completing and furnishing everything but the masonry work and heating plant. Their bid was \$6,985.

It was on March 22, 1912 that the people accepted a proposition by Midway Town to exchange the old school house and lot for one-half of the public square joining the new building. The new sturdy school house, built of native rock, is still serving the needs of the people of Midway today.

Formation of the Wasatch County School Board in 1915 eliminated the need for individual community boards and so the Midway board was abandoned. Some of those who served on the board included David

Van Wagoner, James Lowe, Jeremiah Robey, Alvah J. Alexander, C. I. Bronson, John Huber, John Van Wagoner, Simon Epperson, William L. Van Wagoner, Frederick Hasler, John Watkins, Mark Smith, Attewall Wootton, Jacob Burgener, Conrad Abegglen, George Wardle, George Dabbling and Jesse McCarrell.

Since the county school district has been organized, Midway has been represented by the following board members: C. I. Bronson, J. A. Wootton, William L. Van Wagoner, Reed Kohler, Charles Buehler, Fay Van Wagoner and Irvin Bowden.

Principals of the Midway School have included Attewall Wootton Sr., Theodore B. Miller, Thomas Higgs, E. M. Isaacson, James Sorenson, L. S. McQuarrie, Clark Crook, John Pendleton, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst and Mark Rasband.

Some who will be remembered as teachers in Midway schools, in addition to those already named, include Joseph Forbes who lived in the fort string and was one of the early teachers, George Wootton, Attewall Wootton Jr., David Wootton, Dermont Huffaker, Mrs. Oscar (Ida Murdock) Kirkham, Mrs. Lavina Christensen Fugal, who was American Mother of 1955, Charles E. Bronson, Ida Jacobs, Sarah Wood, Moroni Gerber, Lizzie Lindsay, a Mr. Nugent and a Mr. Pheips.

As Wasatch County's second century begins there is every reason to believe that Midway's future educational efforts will be characterized by the same vision, courage and untiring efforts that have been exhibited since pioneer times.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

.. The Consent of the Governed

From the time of its creation, Provo Valley has been a favored area. Set high in the peaks of the rugged Rocky Mountains, the valley seemed destined to be the home of a chosen people.

The settlers who moved into this country were motivated by deeply religious principles, and were governed in their lives by righteous motives. Because they had been schooled in principles of righteousness, they were able to govern themselves accordingly. This made civil government practically unnecessary, and the leadership provided through the Church adequately filled the needs of civil and spiritual guidance.

The settlements along Snake Creek in Provo Valley's western region began in 1859, and by 1862 one of the first settlers, Sidney H. Epperson, was appointed to serve as the presiding elder. In this position he exercised all the government direction necessary.

Eventually two settlements sprang up along Snake Creek. Elder Epperson was called as presiding elder in the Upper Settlement and David Van Wagonen was named as the lower settlement's presiding officer.

These men, who were individuals of strong leadership, continued in their presiding positions until 1866 when the Black Hawk Indian War threatened the area and the upper and lower settlements joined to form the new community of Midway.

During the threat of Indian war Elder Epperson also assumed the duties of military leader. After the Black Hawk War was ended, the people of Midway strengthened their community ties by building permanent homes in the townsite. Elder Epperson continued as the presiding elder until 1870 when he was succeeded by Henry S. Alexander. David Van Wagonen served again after Elder Alexander and then when the Midway Ward of the Church was formed John Watkins was called as Bishop and by virtue of his position became the community leader.

Midway's years under Bishop Watkins were years of steady improvement and expansion. Progress was made in laying out streets and building irrigation systems. The Midway Irrigation Company was formally organized on February 18, 1888.

New converts to the Church began to settle in Midway, many of them coming from Switzerland. This saw a fusing of different nationalities, but the common love of the Gospel, their common goal of liberty and love of freedom enabled the people to work together harmoniously. From this experience developed patriotic, loyal American citizens.

In 1873 a Tithing Office was built in the community of pot rock which was abundant in the area. This was used for English speaking meetings, and by 1875 a German Hall had been constructed to accommodate the German-speaking Swiss. All the sermons, as well as the ordinances and the by-laws of the community and the irrigation company were translated into German.

By 1891 the community had grown large enough that it was difficult for one man to carry both the Church and the civic responsibilities of leadership. So on June 1, 1891 Midway was incorporated as a town and on August 1, 1891, Alvah J. Alexander was elected as the first town board president. By January 23, 1892 Mr. Alexander and other elected officials had extended the boundaries of the community to the present proportions.

At first there were no Town Hall or community offices so the officials met to transact their business in stores or private homes. Many of these meetings were held in George Bonner's store, the German Hall or in Godfried F. Buehler's store.

In 1898 James B. Wilson succeeded Mr. Alexander. Those elected to serve on his board included Henry T. Coleman, John Morton, George Bonner and Godfried Buehler.

Mr. Wilson and his board, consisting of George Bonner Jr., Fredrick Haueter, Attewall Wootton Jr. and Andreas Burgener were confronted with the serious problem of contagious disease in 1900.

Records show that on April 20, 1900 the board met with Doctors John W. Aird and Wm. Russell Wherritt to discuss the contagious fever that was sweeping through the town. Mr. Bonner and Mr. Wilson were appointed as a board of health and authorized to negotiate with the doctors in controlling any contagious disease that came into the community. This was probably the first attempt to quarantine those with serious diseases.

This same board also went on record in a meeting held December 21, 1900 as unanimously opposing smallpox vaccinations, even though it was a state law.

The community prospered under Mr. Wilson's leadership and on August 20, 1901, the town was in such good financial condition that the board voted not to collect the taxes which they had levied the previous June.

Mr. Wilson was elected to another term in January of 1902, with his new board consisting of Henry T. Coleman, Fredrick Haueter, Attewall Wootton Jr. and Godfried Buehler. George A. Huntington was appointed justice of the peace.

This new board again faced serious disease problems with the outbreak of diphtheria and smallpox epidemics that swept through the entire community. A complete quarantine was imposed and no one under 16 years of age was allowed to meet or gather in groups. The quarantine

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was lifted in February of 1903, and upon the motion of Henry T. Coleman the board voted to furnish free of charge to all Midway residents the necessary materials to disinfect their homes. They purchased 1,000 pounds of sulphur and retained Dr. John E. Morton as quarantine physician.

The board, at this time, was using the German Hall for its meetings. They paid 25 cents per meeting for the use of the hall.

Minutes of the town board showed that on March 31, 1903 it was "moved and carried that a committee of two be appointed to find out on what terms the cemetery can be acquired." Henry T. Coleman and Fredrick Haueter were appointed to the cemetery committee and they subsequently reported to the board that authorities of the Church, who held title to the cemetery, were agreeable to transfer the title to the town. Formal transfer of the title took place on August 3, 1904, with James B. Wilson acting for the town board.

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Attewall Wootton became board president in 1908. Serving with him were Peter Abplanalp, Robert B. Ross, J. Ulrick Probst and Alfred Alder. This board took steps to provide the first electric lights in Midway. They bonded the town for \$7,600 and worked together with Heber and Charleston to build electric power lines.

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John Carroll was the next board president, taking office in 1919. Those on the board included George A. Davis, Fred Hasler, James T. Pyper and William W. Wilson. Mary E. Abegglen was secretary-treasurer. On May 8, 1919 the board declared a half-day holiday to wel-

was lifted in February of 1903, and upon the motion of Henry T. Coleman the board voted to furnish free of charge to all Midway residents the necessary materials to disinfect their homes. They purchased 1,000 pounds of sulphur and retained Dr. John E. Morton as quarantine physician.

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come home Midway men who served in the Armed Forces. A celebration, refreshments and dancing were enjoyed by the citizenry.

John N. Carroll continued as board president in 1922 with Fred Hasler, Samuel Hair, Karl Probst and Alvah Ross as members. Lamond S. McQuarrie was the clerk, and later joined the board as a member, along with William W. Wilson.

Mr. Carroll and his board negotiated an agreement with the Heber Valley Fire Department to provide fire protection in Midway. This board also passed an ordinance fixing the automobile speed limit within the town at 12 miles per hour.

Electric street lights were first installed down the center of the streets, but by 1926 this made automobile traffic difficult, so the board authorized moving the poles to the sides of the road. This made it necessary to remove the beautiful trees that lined each side of main street.

Samuel Hair was elected board president in 1928. Chosen to serve with him were Nephi Probst, Albert Kohler, George T. Watkins and F. O. Haueter. Problems that came before this board included the extension of Indian Spring water to Stringtown for culinary purposes, control of waste water on town streets, the establishment of dog licenses and financial difficulties that resulted from the great depression in the nation. With the advent of the depression many local problems were laid aside because of the urgent need to care for unemployed. Farm income fell off rapidly and a majority of Midway's citizens felt the pinch of economic difficulties. Many cooperative efforts were carried out with county and state governments and Church officials to promote employment and assist needy persons.

Mr. Hair was re-elected in 1929 and started his new term January 8, 1930 with Fredrick Hasler, Albert Stewart, August Kohler and George Watkins serving on the board. One of their first major problems concerned bonding the town to join with Heber and Charleston in purchasing new equipment and rebuilding the municipal power facilities. Mr. Hair and Mr. Kohler opposed the bonding, but Mr. Watkins, Mr. Hasler and Mr. Stewart voted as a majority to join the other municipalities. The bond issue was placed before the citizens and when they voted to approve the bond, Mr. Hair and Mr. Kohler joined with the others to make the venture a success.

The board also approved creation of a Midway School Library.

In the fall of 1931 August Kohler was elected board president and he took office in 1932. Elected to serve on the board were Joseph Galli, Charles L. Davis, Samuel Hair, William Haueter and Luke E. Provost.

The board began consideration in July, 1932 of a proposal that the town buy the Midway Water Works Company. A group of stockholders made the proposal, and the town board took the matter under advisement. By the summer of 1933 the board was ready to move ahead on the proposal. The minutes carry the following resolution, unanimously

passed: "Be it resolved that Midway Town Corporation, through the Midway Town Board, buy the Midway Water Works Company." The stockholders were paid \$50 per share for their stock. In January of 1934 the board approved application papers to Washington D. C. requesting a Public Works Administration loan for purchase and improvement of the water system.

In the meantime, the Bank of Heber City closed during the summer of 1933, tying up town funds and causing a financial crisis in Midway. The Midway Dramatics Club began putting on plays and giving the proceeds to the town.

Mr. Kohler completed his term on January 1, 1934 and turned over the town board to Joseph E. Probst, the new president. Board members were Alfred Alder, Floyd Bonner, John A. Sulser and Mr. Kohler.

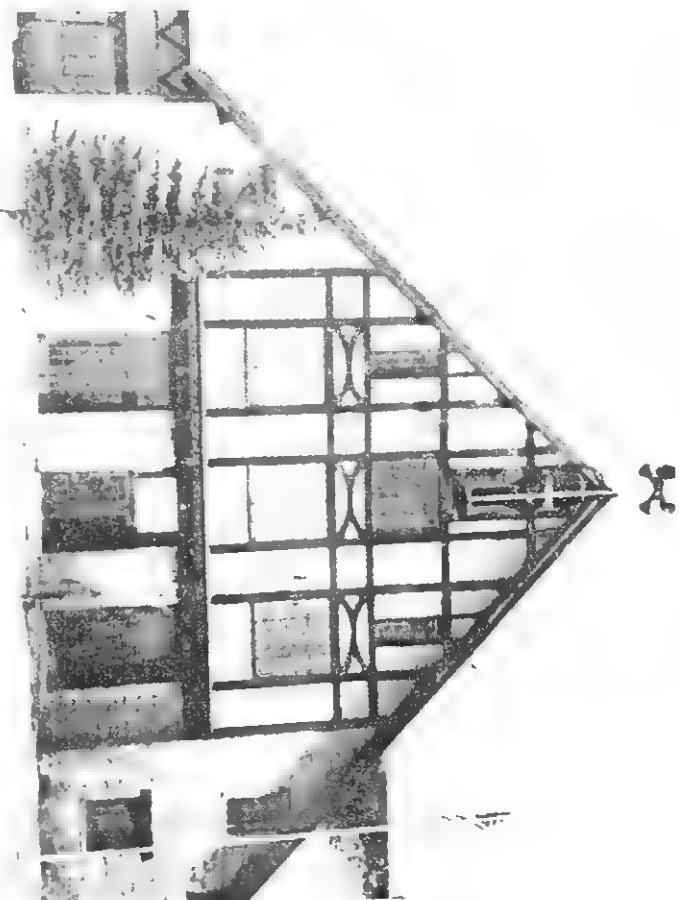
The board received approval from the people to borrow federal funds to build up the community and help in easing depression employment problems. During 1937 they applied for a Works Progress Administration (WPA) loan to build sidewalks in the town. Joseph E. Probst, Alfred Alder and County Commissioner Guy E. Coleman were appointed as a committee to seek approval of the project from the WPA office in Provo. The approval was granted and the project was completed in 1938.

William Haueter took office as town board president on January 7, 1938, with Karl Probst, LeRoy Huffaker, Reuben Casper and Ruby Provost as members of the board. They carried out the WPA sidewalk project and also improved the cemetery grounds. Mrs. Provost, who continued on the board until 1941, is the only woman who has served on the board.

Early in 1939 the board began making plans for a community gymnasium and civic auditorium, proposing it as a WPA project. By June 19, 1939, it had been approved. The last meeting in the old town hall was held July 5, 1939. The old structure was torn down and work began on the new building. Mr. Haueter, town board president, and his brother, F. O. Haueter, supervised the building project. Through their efforts a substantial and artistic recreation hall was erected, utilizing local labor, native timber and building rock.

The Midway Recreation Center, as the building was named, was dedicated officially on June 13, 1941. Grounds around the building that had been privately owned were purchased and improved by the town's garden club. The area is known now as the Rose Garden.

Controlling disease in the community has always been a problem for the town board, and in 1941 LeRoy Huffaker, town health officer, was still busy quarantining homes. It was a long standing community practice that yellow quarantine flags would be placed on homes where contagious diseases existed. After an examination by the county physician, Mr. Huffaker would nail up the yellow flags, warning all to stay



The Midway Recreation Center, begun as a community project in 1939 and completed in 1941. It was dedicated June 13, 1941. The building includes a large gymnasium, the post office, town board offices, meeting rooms for the Daughters of Utah Pioneers and rooms for many community organizations and groups.

away, and forbidding the afflicted persons to leave the premises. This practice has since been discontinued.

Following the administration of William Haueter, Francis Probst was elected town board president. He directed the building of community tennis courts before he resigned to accept a missionary call for the Church. Earl J. Kohler was appointed to fill the unexpired term, and is continuing to serve. With him on the board are Fay Van Wagoner, Grant Remund, Eugene Probst and Reed Gertsch. Grace W. Sonderegger is clerk.

Under this board's direction, many community improvements are going forward, including work on the ball park, oiling Midway streets, improving the cemetery ground, repainting and extending the culinary water system and redecorating the recreation center.

MIDWAY AND THE MAIL

With the exception of WPA and other depression-recovery programs, Midway's main contact with the federal government has been through the post office. The first government post office, however, was



The Midway Town Board of 1960 includes, seated, left to right, Reed Gertsch, Earl Kohler, president, Grace W. Sonderegger, secretary. Back row, Fay Van Wagoner, Eugene Probst and Leo Luke.

not established until 1893, and prior to that time, letters and news came through any available means from Provo and later Park City.

The early residents of Midway kept alive their family ties, and kept up to date on current news through the occasional riders that brought saddle bags of mail up from Provo. Descendants of some of the early Midway people have recounted tales of the anxious hours of waiting for the man on horseback to carry the mail up the rough trail through Provo Canyon, and of the great thrill of receiving mail.

Sidney H. Epperson, the presiding elder, once had a large crowd gather at his home as they waited for a newspaper to arrive reporting the outcome of the Sullivan-Kilrain championship boxing match that had been fought a month earlier on the Mississippi.

Many waited for news of events of the great Civil War, and tremblingly opened letters that told of their loved ones who were engaged in the conflict.

The mail that came by horseback through Provo Canyon usually had been carried across the continent by wagons following trails that began where rail lines ended. The co-op store operated by Bishop David Van Wagonen was a central meeting spot in the community, and soon became the location where people waited for the mails. So, when the post office was officially established in 1893 the Van Wagonen store was the logical post office and the proprietor the choice for postmaster.

Bishop Van Wagonen served as postmaster until 1897 when Mary



The old Midway Post Office from 1897 to 1917. It was operated by William and Mary Watkins.

E. Watkins was appointed postmistress. Her office was located in a small frame store building operated by her husband, William Watkins. They continued their store and post office until 1918 when poor health and failing eyesight forced them to retire.

Because Midway was only a fourth class post office, wages were paid only on a percentage of cancelled stamps, and the pay was small, usually averaging \$32 to \$37 a month, with a little more at Christmas time.

When the Watkins' retired there was no immediate successor who wanted to work at the wage offered and it appeared that the post office might be closed. However a young widow, Mrs. Cora Vail Bigler, was encouraged to accept the assignment, which she did. The post office was moved to an old school building on the southeast corner of the public square which had been completely renovated for the new post office.

Mrs. Bigler served until 1921 when she remarried, and her sister, Mrs. Naomi Burgener, who had come to Midway earlier to assist with the children, was appointed to the office on July 21, 1921. Assisting Mrs. Burgener were her daughters, Juanita, Geneva and Doris.

When the new Town Hall was being planned for construction, the post office building was selected as the site and the office had to be moved to the old German Hall during the time of construction. In July, 1938, the post office was moved into the east wing of the new Town Hall, and living quarters were also provided for the postmistress.

In 1945 Midway became a third class city, and Thelma Blood was chosen as a part time clerk in the post office. In 1958 Juanita Ross Zenger was appointed clerk and worked until Mrs. Burgener retired on April 30, 1959. Mrs. Zenger is currently acting as postmistress with Mrs. Lucille Kohler as assistant.

BOOSTERS CLUB

Midway's civic service club, The Boosters Club, was organized in 1947. There had been considerable interest shown that year in organizing a civic group, and when Joseph Erwin and his wife, Pauline, purchased Luke's Hot Pots, they invited Midway residents to use their facilities in organizing an association. After solicitations by several national organizations, a large group of townspeople met to organize their own club, which became known as the Boosters Club. Reed Kohler was elected the first president, with Francis Probst, first vice president, William Haueter, second vice president and Roy Huffaker, secretary-treasurer.

Many committees were selected to serve for the first year, and by September of 1947 the club had organized a highly successful celebration known as the Harvest Festival. A miniature parade was held, and a programmed theme to "Old Timers Live Again" drew many former residents back to the community.

In 1948, the organization was headed by Francis Probst. Roy Huffaker was first vice president with Reed Kohler second vice president and Fay Van Wagoner secretary-treasurer. During this year the group again staged the Harvest Festival, and a program directed by Vonda Huntington entitled "The Good Ship Midway" brought back many talented people who had left Midway. Also during 1948 the old buildings on the south west corner of the town square were torn down and earth was hauled in preparatory to building a community flower garden.



The first officers of the Midway Boosters Club, organized in 1947. Seated are Reed Kohler, left, president and Francis Probst, first vice president. Standing, left to right, are William Haueter, second vice president, Joseph Erwin, sponsor and promoter of the Boosters Club, and LeRoy Huffaker, secretary-treasurer.

Roy Huffaker was club president in 1949, and had as vice presidents George Remund and Albert Kohler. Grant Remund was secretary-treasurer. The flower garden was completed and planted with the assistance of Fred Augsburg of Salt Lake City who made many trips to Midway to advise the club in planting. A grassed area complete with sprinkling system around the flower garden was also finished this year.

In 1950 Leland Ivers served as president with Wendell Cluff and Myron Gale vice presidents and Sylvan Burgi, secretary-treasurer. The annual community celebration was again held, featuring a large barbeque, parade, flower show, rodeo and special program and dance. This year also saw the entire area surrounding the school house planted in lawn. Free dinners served by Ruby Provost helped spur on the many who donated their time to this project. The year 1950 also saw the production of an original musical show called the "Little Rodeo" by Francis and Lethe Tatge.

Officers during 1951 included Myron Gale, president, George Remund and Reed Kohler, vice presidents, and Lavon and Thelma Hair secretary and treasurer. Many hours were spent during the year pouring concrete for a tennis court on the school ground. Mr. and Mrs. Tatge also presented this year "Jack and the Beanstalk."

Wendell Cluff became president in 1952 with Ruby Provost and

Earl Houtz vice presidents, and Wilburn and Verna Huffaker secretary and treasurer. During the year the club paid off the indebtedness on the tennis court and added a tall fence around the court. Clarence H. Probst and Roy Huffaker presented a musical, "Midway Harvest Days," with Verna Berg supervising costume and scenery.

In 1953 Scott Whitaker was president, with Lethe Tatge and Reed Kohler vice president and Lona and Austin Kelly as secretary and treasurer. During this year the first "Swiss Days" theme was adopted for the annual September celebration. The Swiss market and Swiss parade were introduced, and music was furnished by the famous Edelweiss Chorus.

Bert Blood was elected president in 1954 and had as vice presidents Nephi Probst and Albert Kohler. Kenneth and Carmen Kohler were secretary and treasurer. The year's activities featured one of the best flower and art shows ever held.

President during 1955 was Vern Wilson, with George Remund and Francis Probst as vice presidents and Jane and Alma Durtschi as secretary and treasurer. The Swiss Days celebration was very successful, and at the end of the season a \$200 contribution was made by the club to the city for use toward a sprinkling system in the town ball park.

In 1956 Robert Welch was selected to head the club. Assisting him were Lincoln Pugh and Del Wallengren as vice presidents, and Lillie and Vern Wardell as secretary and treasurer. All efforts of the club this year were concentrated on a successful Swiss Days celebration.

Del Wallengren headed the organization in 1957. Vice presidents were Ray Gertsch and Lavon Hair. Lillie and Vern Wardell were re-elected as secretary and treasurer. This group of officers also directed a very successful Swiss Days, adding a number of new events to the occasion.

Activities in 1958 were under the direction of Reed Kohler as president, with Clyde Alder and Del Wallengren as vice presidents. Shirley and Clifton Chatwin were secretary and treasurer. In addition to sponsoring the Swiss Days, a number of civic projects were started by the club. A campaign was begun to obtain better telephone service that resulted in stringing of new lines to the community and fewer parties on the lines. A town-wide clean-up and paint-up campaign was successfully carried on, and the group pushed for development of the Bates Reservoir rather than raising Deer Creek Reservoir.

During 1959 it was decided that a board of six directors should conduct the club's activities rather than a presidency. Reed Kohler and Clyde Alder were elected to the board to serve as one year directors. Mr. Kohler was appointed board president. Two-year directors were Alberta S. Provost, Earl Kohler, Nephi Probst and Pete Coleman. Darlene and Grant Shelton were appointed secretary and treasurer.

Since its organization the Boosters Club has been very successful in

bettering community life. Much credit is due Clarence Probst, Roy Huffaker, Karl Probst, Verna Berg, June Tatton, Barbara Bonner Johnson, the Midway chorus and orchestra and others for the successful and popular programs presented at celebrations sponsored by the club.

Some who have helped direct art and hobby shows for the club include Charles Buehler, Ferrin Whitaker, LaVon Hair, Mr. and Mrs. William Tuotte, Dean Zenger, Glenna Ivers, Ruby Provost, J. H. (Jack) Buehler, Karl Probst and Reed Kohler.

GARDEN CLUB

The Midway Garden Club came into being in March of 1948 when a group of determined townspeople decided they should encourage beautification of private property as well as public places.

Much of the impetus for organization came from Mrs. Mary C. Probst, who also was elected to serve as the club's first president. The organization of the club was directed by Fred Augsburg, president of the Utah Associated Garden Clubs.

Other officers elected during the first meeting held at the home of Lorna Van Wagoner, were Lois Bonner, vice president, Garnet Probst, secretary and treasurer, and Ruby Boss and Mrs. Van Wagoner, board members. Named as chairman of committees were Alice Probst, exhibitions; Garnet Probst and Lorna Van Wagoner, civic activities; Lethe Tatge, publicity; Maeda Gertsch, membership; Elsie Kohler, garden tours and Vera Provost, plant exchange. The club selected as its motto "More Beautiful Gardens," and as the club flower the Sweet Pea.

The group of officers elected at the time of organization also served through 1949. Others who have been presidents of the club include Ruby Boss, Eva Kohler, Verna Berg for three terms, Elda Kohler, Ruby Provost, Glenna Ivers, Wilma Pope, Bonnie Bezzant, Wanda Holmes and Nola Boren.

In the July 20, 1961 issue of "The Utah Farmer," the club was featured with an article and pictures. Included in its praise for the accomplishments of the club was this statement: "Twelve years ago, one handful of ladies met together with a determination to beautify their town. As a result, the farming community of Midway, Utah, has become one of the beauty spots of the state—with much of the credit due to these ladies."

Through the years, town boards, government officials and civic and service clubs have played great roles in Midway's growth. During the coming years the community's progress will be as great as the men who are chosen to guide its destiny. All of Midway looks ahead to a bright future for a choice spot in Provo Valley.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The Simple Joys

Beauty, according to an old proverb, is the eye of the beholder. And, the early pioneers who first came to the Midway area found much to behold. They were greeted by hills and mountains clothed in pine, maple, oak and aspen. They found fertile soil and clear, fresh streams. It was an environment that inspired them to look beyond the struggle and toil of settlement, and to achieve in music, literature, drama and the fine arts.

The universal language of music provided much of the early cultural achievement in Midway. Though the settlers had many different nationalities, they all understood singing, dancing and the best of marching bands.

John Huber who came to Midway in the early 1860's was the first musician and poet to be remembered. He loved the wooded mountains, and built his home in an aspen grove in Snake Creek Canyon. Shortly after Mr. Huber arrived in Midway he organized a choir which became very popular. In addition to conducting the choir, Mr. Huber would write many of the verses, set them to music and then teach them to the choir. The group sang at numerous parties, concerts, church meetings and community celebrations. In 1885, President Abram Hatch invited the choir to sing at Wasatch Stake Conference. Fred Burgener served as organist for the group. Some of the well remembered songs which Mr. Huber composed included, "Evening, Consolation, Meditation, Happy Missionary. When the May Breezes Whisper and Blackbird Roundelay."

Some other early choir leaders were George Dabbling, George Wardle, David S. Van Wagoner and Simon Epperson.

Glee clubs have been popular through the years, and have given Midway a musical reputation. One of the most popular clubs was organized in 1896 by Jacob Probst and Fredrick Burgener.

Midway people who were most prominent in early choirs or glee clubs included Maggie Cunningham, Elizabeth (Betty) Ross, Julia Van Wagoner, Caroline Wardle, Mary Jane McCarrell, Mary Ann Watkins, Emily Wilson, Maggie Hasler, Lizzie Hasler Kennah, Eliza Huber Gibson, Emma Huber Gibson, Mary Huber Probst, Nellie Springer Smith, Ada Mohlman, Lunica Epperson Mathews, Louise Haueuer Huffaker, Lenore McCarrell, Catherine McCarrell, John Huber, Andreas Burgener, J. A. Bigler, Thomas Hair, Jacob Probst, David Ludlow, James O'Neil, Ulrich Probst, George Dabbling, Peter Abplanalp, George Wardle, Fredrick Hasler, Attewall Wootton Sr., Carson Smith, Simon Epperson, Elmer



All dressed up for the photographer's camera in the "high style" of the 1890's are these Midway young people. Seated, left to right, are Clod Huffaker, Frank Watkins, Luc Russell and Will Wootton. On the second row are Lenore McCarrell, Melvina Huffaker, Kate McCarrell and Annie Wootton.

Epperson, James Pyper, Frank Epperson, David McGimpsey, Nephi Huber, Joseph Huber, Alvah Ross, Wilbur Ross, David and Emily Van Wagoner and Conrad Gertsch Sr.

Quartet singing, both men's and ladies, has also been a popular form of music in Midway. A ladies quartet known as "The Blackbirds" became very popular, using "Kentucky Babe" as their theme song. Members were Ellen Wilson, Eva Bonner, Jennie Epperson and Matilda Haueuer. One of the earliest male quartets in the area was formed by Jacob Probst, Ulrich Probst, Fred Hasler and Fred Burgener. Another early quartet group consisted of Clarence Probst, Karl Probst, Albert Kohler and John Durtschi. In recent years quartet singers have included Frank Epperson, Clyde Pyper, Karl Probst, Rulon Huntington, Roy Huffaker and Reed Kohler. Known as the Midway Harmony Quartet, they sang at many funerals, Church services and entertainments, and also presented several successful minstrel shows.

Other favorite singers were the Street Corner group and the Barber-Shop Quartet. Members of these sweet harmonizing groups included Ernest Daniels, Monroe Hair, Lamont Epperson, Earl Provost, Roy Bigler, Carl, Alma and Joseph Burgener and Shirl and Joseph Meeks.

Music plays a great part at any time of bereavement, and the musical duet combination of Marjoria Provost and Roy Huffaker has given

much solace and comfort throughout many years with their beautiful singing.

Of all the musical leaders in Midway, Clarence H. Probst is perhaps the greatest. Under his direction many operettas and choral concerts have been presented, using Midway townspeople for all the productions.

In 1937 Mr. Probst directed "Robin Hood," and then presented "In Old Vienna" in 1940. He provided a concert for Midway Harvest Days in 1952 and in 1953 planned and presented "The Festival of Music" for the first Swiss Days celebration. His high standards of musical production have added much to the quality of singing in Midway.

Some who have taken an active part in his choruses and operettas have included Samuel Burgi, George Burgi, Frank Epperson, Albert Kohler, Reed Kohler, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst, Thomas Schneitter, Clyde Pyper, Roy Huffaker, Rulon Huntington, Calvin Huffaker, Joseph Jorgensen, Francis Probst, Nephi Probst, Grant Remund, John Joost, Dean Zenger, George Johnson, Lowell Johnson, Max Johnson, June Van Wagoner, Ruth Coleman, Marjoria Provost, Joan Larson, Beth Probst, Dorothy Kohler, Ardell Pugh, Jennie Johnson, Eloise Kohler, Margaret Kohler, Dawnette K. Adamson, Georgia Huffaker, Joan Van Wagoner, Alder and June Boss Tatton.

Individuals who deserve mention in Midway's history of singing include Ida Haueter, Vera Epperson, Leah and Louise Kohler, Leda Smith, Ida Kohler, Simon and Lillie Epperson, Lona Burgener Kelly, Stella Hair Luke, Mrs. Dorothy Kohler, Mrs. Mary C. Probst, Mrs. Ardell Pugh, Francis Probst, John Joost, Marjorie Provost and Roy Huffaker, Samuel and Lacy Burgi, Jennie Pyper Johnson, organist for more than 40 years, and the family of Albert and Elsie Kohler, Alvah, Eloise, Barbara, Margaret, Elizabeth, Marion and Ann Lynn, all of whom made musical contributions. Samuel Burgi was chorister in the auxiliary organization of Midway 1st Ward for 25 years.

One of the highlights in Midway musical achievements came on January 20 and 21, 1960, when the entire community cooperated to present an original musical show, "Midway to Heaven." Composed and presented entirely by local talent, the show received statewide acclaim and has since been performed at the annual Swiss Day celebration.

The music was composed by John Ernest Kuhni. Orma Whitaker Wallengren wrote the words to the songs and the dialogue. Scenery was painted by Ferrin Whitaker. Those responsible for the successful production included Clarence H. Probst, musical director; Roy Huffaker, business manager; Lethe Tatge, drama director; Verna Berg, stage and costumes; Wanda Simmons, choreographer; June Tatton, accompanist; Robert Welch, make-up; Leo Luke, properties and Felt, Silver and Walton, sound and lighting.

Another important aspect of music in Midway has been its martial bands. The first band was organized when the settlement was in its



Two of the most popular musicians in Midway's earlier years were Henry Van Wagoner and his sister Emily Van Wagoner Murdock, shown here in a traditional pose.

infancy, and band music has continued as a popular entertainment feature since that time.

Members of the first martial band were Henry Van Wagoner, fife; David Provost Sr., snare drum; Luke Provost Sr., bass drum; William (Lime Kiln Bill) Van Wagoner, snare drum; Ambrose Potter, snare; Doc McCarrell, flagman. Later Mark Smith, Jesse McCarrell Sr., Jesse McCarrell Jr. and Joseph Jacobs were added as members.

Henry Van Wagoner, known also as an outstanding banjo player, directed the band, and continued his leadership for more than 50 years. A 1918 band notice lists Mr. Van Wagoner as director, with members including Amos Epperson, fife; Lawrence and Emery Epperson, Ellis Epperson and David E. Provost, drums and Charley Van Wagoner, flag bearer. David E. Provost recently revived the martial band for the Midway Harvest and Swiss Days celebrations.

The first brass band in Midway was organized by Andreas Burgener, an LDS Church convert from Faulensee, Switzerland. Mr. Burgener studied music in his native land and became a bugler in the Swiss Army and bandmaster of the Swiss Military Band. When he joined the Church and decided to come to America he was advised by Church missionaries to bring musical instruments with him, which he did. The three cornets, one bugle, two alto horns and one baritone which he brought

with him in 1874 quickly became the nucleus of a brass band when he arrived in Midway to make his first American home.

Members of Mr. Burgener's band included Peter Abplanalp, S. J. Schneitter, Joseph and Conrad Abegglen and John and Christian Burgener and Christian Burgi.

The thrilling music of this band made the holidays and celebrations unforgettable. People came from all parts of the valley to enjoy Mr. Burgener's early morning parades, patriotic marches, American and Swiss selections as well as many of his own arrangements.

Another brass band was organized later by Robert Krebs. Members included Fred Sonderegger, George Burgener, John Burgener, F. O. Haueter, Fred Kohler, Charles Bigler, Edward Burgener, Arnold Burgener, John Sonderegger, Henry Zenger, Alma Burgener and William Bigler.

The third band to gain favorable recognition was organized in 1898 by Arnold Burgener, son of the old Swiss bandmaster.

Known as the Midway Independent Brass Band, this group achieved a favorable reputation in many parts of the state. They played on all holiday occasions and frequently gave concerts in neighboring counties. Members of this band included Will Bigler, Walter Burgener, John Sonderegger, Fred O. Haueter, Arnold Burgener, Will Buhler, Eph Mohl-



The Third Midway Brass Band posing for a picture on November 28, 1899. On the first row, left to right, are Walter Burgener, Fred O. Haueter, Will Buhler, Frank Abplanalp, Peter Boss, Laurence Epperson and Bennie Clark. Shown on the second row are Will Bigler, John Sonderegger, Arnold Burgener, Ephraim Mohlman, Simon Epperson, William Mathews, Fred Burgener and Henry Zenger. The little girls on the porch are Lillie Watkins and Pansy Bonner.



The Robert Krebs Boys Band, shown here in an 1898 photograph, includes, front row left to right, Wallace Epperson, Elmer Burgener, Clarence Shields, Jess Bigler, Rolland Krebs, David Provost, Emery Epperson and Ellis Epperson. Back row: Charles Van Wagoner, Charles Bonner, Walter Burgener, Tracy Watkins, Roswell Blood, Nephi Sulser, Edward Burgener, Amos Epperson, Robert Krebs, leader, and Ernest Sonderegger, Jr.

man, Frank Abplanalp, Simon Epperson, Will Matthews, Peter Boss, J. Fred Burgener, Lawrence Epperson, Henry Zenger and Bennie Clark.

At the same time as the Independent band was flourishing another group was being formed, including many young men. Robert Krebs, who possessed a great musical talent, and also a love for boys, organized a junior band that became known throughout the state. Members of this band included Wallace Epperson, Elmer Burgener, Clarence Shields, Jess Bigler, Rolland Krebs, David Provost, Emery Epperson, Ellis Epperson, Charles Van Wagoner, Charles Bonner, Walter Burgener, Tracy Watkins, Roswell Blood, Nephi Sulser, Edward Burgener, Amos Epperson, Ernest E. Sonderegger.

A very promising band was organized in 1913 under the direction of Fred O. Haueter. The group became very popular, but when the nation entered World War I many of the band members answered service calls and the band soon ended. Members of the band during its four years existence included Ellis Epperson, Walter Burgener, David Provost, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst, John Burgener, Bernard Kennah, Delbert Ross, Henry Zenger, William Haueter, Edward Burgener, Jess Bigler, William Bigler, Alva Ross, Reed Alder, and Ernest E. Sonderegger.

In more recent years there have been bands directed by Karl Probst, Clarence Probst and El Roy Van Wagoner, but the dominant position once enjoyed by the brass bands is becoming a thing of the past.

Orchestra music for dances has also been a lively part of the Mid-



The Fourth Midway Band, directed by Fred O. Haueter, included, left to right, Ellis Epperson, Walter Burgener, David Provost, Karl Probst, Clarence Probst, Fred O. Haueter, leader, John Burgener, Bernard Kennah, Delbert Ross, Henry Zenger, and not shown on the photograph, William Haueter, Edward Burgener, Jess Bigler, William Bigler, Alva Ross and Reed Alder.

way scene. The old time square dance, the mazurka and Virginia Reels were danced to the violin played by Moroni Blood, Mark Smith, Jim Wheeler, Jeremiah Robey, George and Edward Wardle and David Van Wagoner. Those who came to the early dances usually paid their admission with potatoes or other produce.

One of the first regular orchestras included William Abplanalp, violin; Lacy Abplanalp, piano; John Sonderegger, clarinet; Lawrence and Amos Epperson and F. O. Haueter, cornet. Still others included Sylvia Kennah, violin; Ernest E. Sonderegger, clarinet; Karl Probst and Lavon Hair, saxophone; Clarence Probst, clarinet; Geneva Wilson, Lacy Burgi Fitzgerald and June Boss Tatton, piano; Ammon Van Wagoner, xylophone and Ferrin and El Roy Van Wagoner, clarinets. Orson Burgi was particularly outstanding on the trumpet.

David Murdock and his wife Emma Van Wagoner Murdock had a small orchestra in the early days which proved most popular when old time dance music was desired for such dances as the Mazurka, the De La Grande, Waltz Quadrille, Varsouvienne and the Schottische.

A western orchestra was organized by the North Brothers in 1935, and has been in great demand since throughout Wasatch County and other areas for wedding dances, church socials and public dances. Members of the orchestra include Howard North, Spanish guitar; Raymond North, accordion and harmonica; Garth North, banjo and tenor guitar;

Lavon Hair, saxophone and guitar; Keith Montgomery, bass fiddle and Don Ryan, Spanish guitar and mandolin.

The piano has been a favorite musical instrument and many have become accomplished pianists. Amy Hancock Clayburn was one Midway resident who played well and taught many others to play. Some of the talented Midway pianists have included Lacy Abplanalp Lundquist, Geneva Wilson, June Boss Tatton, Grace Reese, Ardell Buhler Clyde, Floris Smith, Lacy Burgi Fitzgerald and Barbara Bonner.

Many of Midway's "home town" musicians have attained prominence in the musical world. John Sonderegger became first clarinetist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and held the position for many years. Sylvia Kennah became an outstanding concert violinist, while Vera Epperson Clayton was soloist and a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Amos and Laurence Epperson were active in music at Brigham Young University, and Emery Epperson became musical director of the Jordan School District in Salt Lake City as well as a recognized composer. Henry Van Wagoner was recognized as a versatile banjo artist and entertained throughout the area as "Henry Van the Banjo Man."

One of the area's most successful teachers and leaders of music was Arnold Burgener. In his school days at Brigham Young University he played in the Provo Opera House and participated in many vaudeville



A more recent musical group in Midway is the North Brothers Orchestra, popular at community dances and social gatherings. Pictured are, left to right, Garth North, LaVon Hair, Keith Montgomery, Raymond North, Don Ryan and Howard North.

performances. Beginning in 1912 he taught music at Price High School, organizing a 100-piece band and presenting many operettas. Later he organized the MIA Band of the LDS Church in Salt Lake City, which included some 750 boys and girls of Mutual age. The band appeared in the 50th Anniversary MIA parade and drew from Elder Melvin J. Ballard of the Council of the Twelve the praise "This is the best boys and girls work in the Church."

Mr. Burgener moved to California in 1935, but continued his work with bands, choirs and orchestras. He taught music to his own family, many of whom followed in musical careers. Throughout his life he taught as his motto: "Teach a boy to play a horn and he will never blow a safe."

Another son of Andreas Burgener, Walter, also followed a musical career in Midway and later in Mexico and California, adding to the musical fame of the Burgener family.

A young, new musical group gaining prominence in Midway is the Three D's, composed of young guitarists and singers, Richard Jones, Dale Pugh and Dwayne Meeks. They often entertain at the Homestead and other places in the area. They, along with many other young people in Midway who are beginning to prove themselves musically, show promise that the musical future of Midway is bright, and that music will always be a basic part of the community life.

Art, as produced and enjoyed in the Midway area, has been an expression of delight in the handiworks of an Eternal Creator. Artists have captured on canvas and paper the majestic mountains, green vales, sparkling streams and the myriad shades of green on the hills and in the forests.

One of the early pioneer painters was Mark Kirby whose paintings were placed in many of the homes. One of his most beautiful creations was the curtain that hung in the Old Midway Opera House and later the Amusement Hall.

Another accomplished artist was Jacob Arnold Bigler who shared his talent with his townsmen after studying art in Paris and other European areas.

A number of Midway artists have followed professional art careers. Included among these are Verna Berg, who is especially known for costuming, scenery displays and decorations; Paul Kuhn, art supervisor in the Jordan School District of Salt Lake County; Karl Probst, art teacher at Wasatch High School and Richard Van Wagoner who teaches art at Weber College in Ogden. Boyd Van Wagoner also follows an art career with special skill in sculpturing.

Of artists who now live in the Midway area, Ferrin Whitaker is perhaps the most recognized. He was trained in Wasatch schools and later became nationally prominent in advertising art in Chicago. Returning to the home of his boyhood after a successful career, Mr. Whitaker

took over the Homestead resort and began concentrating on the fine arts. He regularly exhibits at the Utah State Fair where his oil paintings have won first prizes. He also exhibits in California, Arizona and Oregon, and in 1960 presented a successful one man show in Carmel, California and Scottsbluff, Arizona.

His son, Bill Whitaker, has also shown artistic promise in high school art competition, and is recognized as a future professional artist.

Also worthy of mention in the field of art are Mae Buehler Isaacson, who did professional china painting; Reed Kohler and Charles E. Buehler who work in oil paints and water colors; and LaVon Hair who carries on a good business in ceramics.

LITERATURE

Residents of Midway have always taken an interest in literature, and many of them have written for publication selections of prose and poetry of high literary and artistic quality.

The first writer to be recognized in Midway was Leo Haefeli, who left his native Germany in 1874 to come to America. He was employed as a journalist in Salt Lake City and Ogden until about 1889 when he came to Midway to teach school. During the year 1891 a severe diphtheria epidemic brought death to many Midway residents. Two of the victims were daughters of Mr. and Mrs. George Bunnell. Their deaths touched Prof. Haefeli and he wrote in tribute to them the following poem:

LILY AND ROSE

There blossomed round your family tree
Two flowers sweet and bright;
The blushing Rose you there could see,
The winsome Lilly white,
And Love's close blending harmony
Two sisters did unite.

A happy life's unclouded sun
Their tender buds did greet;
So harmless in their childish fun,
In innocence so sweet,
Where one in frolic gay would run,
The other's smile you'd meet.

One morn saw Rose and Lily rise
With health in hopeful bloom,
Then over the two blended skies
There spread one ominous gloom,
And now two hearts most tender ties
And sunk in grave and tomb.

As budding Lily, blushing Rose
 Had grown on the same stem,
 Fair hopes of Future to disclose.
 Sparkling with Love's bright gem:
 Thus they were one in life's swift close,
 Death could not sever them.

Now lie they, soft in dreamless sleep,
 Two flowers without a thorn.—
 Do not in idle sorrow weep:
 Again they will be born,
 T'Eternal Height from Death's dark keep,
 On Resurrection morn.

Midway, February 7th, 1891—L. H.

John Huber was another early day poet. He composed the lyrics to many familiar melodies. Here is one of his original poems that has been set to music.

EVENING

In the twilight of the evening,
 Find we comfort in the breeze,
 When the stillness wakes emotion,
 And a spirit of devotion
 Seems to move among the trees,
 Seems to move among the trees.

Where the songsters are now hidden,
 With their blood in safe repose,
 When the streams are faster flowing
 And the shadows deeper growing,
 As the light a-hiding goes,
 As the light a-hiding goes.

Peace and worship swell the bosom,
 While unbidden bows the knee,
 Heart and thought are turned to yonder,
 Earthly fetters break asunder,
 For, to thought, the worlds are free!
 For, to thought, the worlds are free!

There is joy in meditation,
 Wherein truth our reason starts,
 Though, perhaps, no words are spoken;
 Yet, an angel leaves a token,
 Only known to honest hearts,
 Only known to honest hearts.

CHORUS:

In the twilight of the evening,
 Find we comfort in the gentle breeze,
 When a spirit of devotion
 Seems to move among the shady trees.

John Huber, 1901.

Still another early pioneer poet was Mrs. William Wilson Sr., whose poetic tribute and beautiful descriptions of the valley are still remembered.

One of the outstanding poets and writers of Midway has been Mrs. Emily Springer Coleman. Her writings have included tributes to friends, accounts of pioneer activities and several successful pageants including "The Gate of Heaven," "Women of the Bible," and "From the Cradle to the Grave."

One of her poetry selections, a descriptive piece about Midway, is included here.

MIDWAY, WASATCH CO., UTAH

The little town of Midway
 In the heart of the Wasatch hills.
 Has enough of scenic beauty
 To give every one some thrills.

At the foot of Old Timpanogos,
 Crowned with perpetual snow,
 It nestles in green verdant meadows
 In the beautiful valley below.

On the North is our famous hot-pots,
 The only type in the State.
 On the South, the Provo River,
 Where fishermen cast their bait.

On the west the rolling foot-hills,
 For those who care to climb.
 And gaze on our beautiful hamlet,
 And hear old church bells chime.

On the east a faithful sentinel
 Stands Memorial Hill.
 On its crest granite columns
 Made with artistic skill.

To honor the names of our heroes
Who helped defend our land.
Indian, Civil and Spanish,
And World War veterans grand.

We love our changing seasons,
The spring with its verdant green.
The summer aglow with splendor
Fair as an artist's dream.

The autumn, a beautiful gypsy,
In crimson, gold and brown.
That dances in wild abandon
As the leaves come drifting down.

Our winter too is lovely,
In robes of downy white.
Her million crystal diamonds,
Gleaming in morning light.

So if you are seeking nature
And rest from a city hot.
Just come to the town of Midway,
And you'll find a beauty spot.

Composed by Emily S. Coleman

Inspired by the literary efforts of their mother, several of Mrs. Coleman's children have excelled in literature and the arts.

Guy E. Coleman has gained prominence in literary activities as well as civic and business fields. His poems have been published in *The Improvement Era*, *The Lariat*, *Paebur Anthology* and *Utah Sings*. Typical of his writing is this poem:

ON THE HILLS

Artist Autumn tints the vale of Timpanogos
And he spreads his rich oblations on the hills.
Tender tints of cloud-toned sunset add their splendor,
Mystic music rises softly from the rills.

There is wonder in the weave of oak and aspen
Carpeting the steep in patterns deft, divine,
There is beauty blushing in the crimsoned maples,
Nature-tapestries of exquisite design.

There's a charm of lavished color in wild gardens.
Magic when the mellow moon of harvest shines;
And my soul is stirred to tenderest devotions
When I hear the Voice Eternal through the pines.

There is harvest far more bountiful, O farmer,
Than the golden hoard which all your storehouse fills;
There is more than gold, O miner of the mountains,
There is grandeur, glory, God there on the hills.

Guy E. Coleman

Mrs. Lethe Coleman Tatge gave her first public reading in 1897 and since that time has constantly served the public as a reader, actress, lecturer and performer. During 1917 she gave programs with President Heber J. Grant for the Liberty Bond drives.

She lectured for the International Chautauqua Bureau of Calgary, Canada, the Ellison-White Bureau of Portland, Ore., the Swarthmore Bureau of Swarthmore, Penn., and the Associated Bureau of Topeka, Kansas.

In addition to dramatic activities in Midway, Mrs. Tatge has appeared in three recent film productions of *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. These have been "How Near to the Angels," "Unto the Least of These," and "Until Death Do Us Part."

She has been a world traveler, lecturing in every state of the union, in Canada and Alaska before it became a state. She was selected as "Miss Utah" by the Business and Professional Women of Utah in 1927 and was a delegate to the National BPW convention in Portland, Maine.

Active in organizations of the Church, Mrs. Tatge has also been president of the Wasatch County Daughters of the Utah Pioneers for six years. Her name is included in "Who's Who Among American Women," and she has been featured in the "Citizen's Magazine," "National Business and Professional Women's Magazine," the "Relief Society Magazine," and "The Instructor."

Rose Coleman Hoyt attained high honors in literature at the University of Utah when she served as associate editor of the *Pen*, the school's literary magazine. She has had many of her poems published, and has been a regular contributor to the *Y Magazine* at Brigham Young University. In 1944 she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, national honorary scholastic fraternities. She holds a master's degree in English and literature, and has taught at the University of Utah, University of Oregon, University of Arizona and BYU.

John Coleman was editor of the *Utonian* yearbook at the University of Utah while he attended the school.

Mrs. Rhea Coleman Guild, who now lives in New Hampshire, has become well known for her lyrical verse. She has had many of her poems published in Eastern papers and magazines.

Another community leader in literature was Theodore B. Miller, who was principal of the Midway schools near the turn of the century. His understanding and love of good literature created an interest in masterpieces and high quality writing. He composed many operettas and dramatic sketches, and wrote the words to many familiar melodies. One of the best known is "Utah, We Love Thee." He left a strong cultural impact in Midway that is still being felt today in the lives of his students.

Another outstanding scholar and writer of Midway is Merrill Van Wagoner who was valedictorian of Wasatch High School in 1935. He specialized in languages in his university training and has written several text books on the Arabic language. He is recognized as one of the country's two top experts on the common Arabic language. He presently serves as superintendent of the Aramco Schools, training employes for service in Arab-speaking countries.

Sylvia Probst Young is another Midway native who has excelled in poetry and prose writing. She has had her work published in Church magazines for more than 20 years, and has also written for the Deseret News, Salt Lake Tribune, the Liahona, Utah Magazine, Utah Pioneer and The Pathfinder. Her poetry has appeared in both volumes of "Utah Sings," and in the "Relief Society Anthology" and "The Contemporary Yearbook of Poetry." She also edited the magazine of the California Mission of the Church while serving as a missionary in that field.

Typical of her poems is this selection.

TO MY MOTHER

So often when I see an evening sky,
Or some high hill bathed by a lingering ray
Of sunlight, when long shadows gently bring
The close of day —

So often then I think of you, dear one,
Who loved the eventide, and you must know
From you I learned to mark the shadowed light,
The crimson afterglow —

When birds have gone to rest and when the night
Is ushered in by one, lone, crystal star,
So often then I think that you are near —
I hope you are.

Sylvia Probst Young

Carrie Wright Probst has also written articles and pageants for town and Church presentations, and is the author of many poems for special occasions.

During 1960 several Midway women who were active in writing fields formed a writer's group to study literature and careers in writing. Some who have been active in this group include Mrs. Orma Whitaker Wallengren, Mrs. Shirley Chatwin, Mrs. Mary Peterson and Mrs. Mildred Larsen. Mrs. Wallengren is a very successful writer in the field of TV and radio script.

DANCING

Though not practiced as an art of any magnitude, dancing in Midway has always been a part of the cultural scene. Entertainment dancing has constantly been part of the community life, and has been supplemented by ballet and creative dancing. Miss Valerie Jones, queen of the 1960 Wasatch County Fair, has been the most prominent in artistic dancing. She teaches several classes in addition to her own performances, and has provided scores of programs with her dancing and singing groups. In the earlier life of Midway, step-dancing was extremely popular. Some of the outstanding dancers were Eliza Van Wagoner Epperson, Robert B. Ross, Alvah J. Alexander and Charles I. Bronson.

Recently, folk dancing has been revived in the community. It is being taught in the Midway schools very successfully. Each spring a Folk Dance Festival is presented by students of the schools.

DRAMATICS

In early Midway days, when there were no electric lights, radios, moving pictures, television programs, and not even medicine shows, minstrel shows or traveling stock companies, people had to improvise and create their own entertainment. They often held campfire parties, dances in the town hall, took hayrides on summer evenings or bobsled rides in the winter and turned to the production of plays as recreation and entertainment.

Dramatic clubs were organized to produce the early plays, and from newspaper clippings, diaries and information in private collections it can be surmised that the plays were well presented and very well attended and enjoyed. Typical of the dramas presented were "The Noble Outcast," and "Bound By An Oath."

Those mentioned prominently in early Midway dramatics were John Morton, Attewell Wootton Sr., Robert B. Ross Jr., Henry T. Coleman, Simon Epperson, John T. Van Wagoner, William Matthews, Caroline Wardell, Ella Alexander Ross, Avis Bronson Van Wagoner, Emily Springer Coleman, Lillie Springer Alexander and Birdie Huffaker.

Dramatics has continued to be a popular pastime in Midway in the 1900's. In recent years the Church has sponsored nearly all the plays and drama work. However, community productions were still important events in the years between the two World Wars. Some of the plays that were most successful included "Down East," "The Octoroom," "Joe

Ruggles," "Millie the Quadroon," "In Old Arizona," "Old R.F.D.," as well as many old-time melodrama productions.

Some of the players included the following: George A. Huntington, George J. Wilson, Joseph E. Huber, Nathan C. Springer, David A. Wootton, Henry S. Coleman, Joseph Van Wagoner, Dermont Huffaker, Guy Coleman, Vernal Huffaker, Samuel Burgi, Nate C. Coleman, Reed Alder, John (Jack) Buehler, Dale Coleman, LaMont McQuarrie, William Tate, Edward Wootton, Keith Coleman, William Carmack, Luella Van Wagoner Brienholt, Vera Epperson Clayton, Ida Bonner Wootton, Eva Bonner Jensen, Lethe Coleman Tatge, Merle Coleman Madsen, Teresa Abplanalp Coleman, Lota Huffaker Wilson, Ellen Wilson Ellertson, Edith Bronson Van Waggoner, Ruth Coleman Phillips, Birdine Huffaker Tippetts, Rhea Coleman Guild, Chloe Coleman Madsen, Jennie Epperson Ross and Mabel Van Wagoner Workman.

In Church drama work Mrs. Maud Derry has made many valuable contributions, along with Marie Kohler, Mrs. Emily Coleman, Lethe Tatge, Merle Dean, Teresa Abplanalp Coleman and Carrie Probst.

One outstanding dramatic winter in Midway saw the production



A dramatic achievement in Midway was a pageant presented by the Midway First Ward in 1921. Careful detail was given to costumes and the decorations, as shown here in this photograph. Participants shown here, facing the camera are Kenneth Van Wagoner, Margaret Young Van Wagoner with baby Dale, June Van Wagoner, Bernice Alder and Leona Abegglen (both standing), Margaret Faucett Van Wagoner, Maud Coleman and Teresa Coleman. Girls in the front not facing the camera include Marjorie Alder, Beulah Giles, Belva Van Wagoner, Madeline Stewart and Melba Holmes.

of seven plays during the winter season. Eva Wilson, Blanche Wilson Pryor and Belva Wilson Broadbent produced the plays, with principal players including Geneva Burgener, Fern Provost, Ruth and Tommy Schneitter, Roy Huffaker, Blanche and Belva Wilson, Ruth Coleman, Lucille Hasler and Roy Huntington.

Outstanding drama directors have included Emily S. Coleman, William Matthews, George J. Wilson and Lethe Tatge. Character actors of professional quality have been William Mathews, George J. Wilson, Joseph E. Huber, Nathan C. Springer, Edward Wootton and Guy E. Coleman.